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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4153
INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE
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RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
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UNCLAS CONAKRY 000649

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SENSITIVE

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TAGS: [ELAB](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [ASEC](#) [GV](#)

SUBJECT: LABOR UNIONS CALL FOR TWO DAYS OF "COMPASSION AND

REFLECTION"

[1](#)1. (U) Guinea's labor unions have formally declared their intent to observe two days of "compassion and reflection" on October 12 and 13. Referring to September 28 as "Black Monday" because of the extensive violence suffered at the hands of the Red Berets, the unions stated that Guineans must join together to honor the victims. These two days are also intended to honor the victims of violence perpetrated in 2006 and 2007.

[1](#)2. (U) The unions note that the two days will be observed nationwide, not only to reflect on the victims of violence, but also as a demonstration of formal protest as well as the solidarity of the Guinean people. Contacts are equating the unions' declaration with a "ville morte," or dead city, during which the city shuts down and citizens generally stay home as a form of protest. Although that generally seems to be the intent behind the two days of reflection, Forces Vives contacts say the unions have not actually called for a ville morte. (COMMENT. The violence in 2007 began with a nationwide labor strike and ville morte, which began peacefully, but then rapidly escalated. END COMMENT).
BROKENSHIRE